

# Antiterrorism Fundamentals for Parents

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**1. Purpose:** provide parents with key information and additional resources to help protect their families from potential terrorist acts.

**2. Background:**

- The threat of terrorists attacking our Army communities is real. Terrorists can strike anytime and anywhere – even your family.
- Antiterrorism is the defensive measures used to reduce the vulnerability of individuals and property to terrorist acts.
- The awareness information provided below can help reduce your family's risk of becoming a terrorist target.

**3. Basic Security Awareness Tips:**

- First and foremost, talk to your family about the threat of terrorism and the potential for terrorist acts to impact your family. None of us are immune, and acknowledging that fact is the first step to a proactive security mind-set.
- The level of risk to each family varies depending on factors such as existence of terrorist groups and their intentions; locations where you live, work, and travel; and the vulnerability associated with your personal security habits. Unit and installation antiterrorism officers can help you to understand how to assess your level of risk so you can adopt effective personal protection measures
- The below information represents some of the fundamentals of security that can enhance your protection and overall safety.
- Parents:
  - Maintain awareness of what is happening around you, be prepared for the unexpected, and know what to do if you feel threatened in any way.
  - Protect your personal information at all times. Do not discuss personal

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- information or military missions in public, on the telephone or internet (such as email, blogs, Facebook).
- Report suspicious behavior or activity to local law enforcement authorities.
  - Young children:
    - Pre-teen age children are generally too young to understand the concept of “terrorism” and why terrorists attack the innocent. However, it’s not too early for parents to discuss the concept of “Stranger Danger” which is covered well in books, stories and information available to the public on the internet.
    - The National Crime Prevention Council through its online site “McGruff.org” (<http://www.mcgruff.org/>) offers useful information and ideas for how parents can talk about dangers for young children.
    - Parents are encouraged to talk to their children about the dangers they may face and teach them how to react. If children see something unusual they should say something (tell a parent, a relative or a teacher).
    - As children grow into their early teenage years, most have been exposed through the media of the effects of terrorist attacks. As such, they will be more prepared for family discussions focused directly on terrorism, including personal protective measures.
    - Parents should learn day-care or school emergency procedures in case of an incident.
  - Teenagers:
    - As teenagers enjoy increased personal freedoms their risk of personal safety and security also increases. Some of these risks include criminal and terrorist related activities.

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- Social network sites (such as Facebook, twitter, and blogs) present a unique set of challenges and risks for teenagers. Teenagers should be aware of the risks associated with these sites (such as identity theft, criminal/terrorist group recruitment, seeking information to target military units/facilities). Revealing personal data can be lead to criminal exploitation as well as recruitment or influence by radical or extremist ideological groups.
- Basic security measures for teenagers include: never travel alone, carry a cell phone, know safe haven location (such as police, hospital), and keep parents informed of where they are going and when they will arrive.
- Parents should try to learn who their teenagers associate and communicate with at school, after school, and via social networking sites and the internet.
- At Home:
  - Basic security begins with the home – make sure your door and window locks and exterior lighting function properly.
  - Participate in a neighborhood watch program to establish a shared responsibility for the safety and security of your entire community.
  - Be prepared for an emergency that may require your family to “shelter-in-place” or relocate on short notice. Make a family emergency plan and ensure family members understand what to do in each of these scenarios.
- At Work:
  - Know the emergency evacuation procedures for the place you work.
  - Know the bomb threat procedures and how to report threats to local law enforcement or security authorities.
  - Understand what to do in an “active shooter” threat scenario.

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- While Travelling:
  - Maintain a “low profile” (i.e., try to blend in with the local populace through dress and appearances) especially when traveling abroad. Know the locations of safe havens and emergency telephone numbers.
  - Understand the culture where you are traveling and learn basic survival phrases (such as “I need a police officer” and “I need a doctor”).
  - Avoid civil disturbances or demonstrations of any kind – these events can turn violent with little to no advanced warning.

#### **4. Where to Find Additional Information:**

- Antiterrorism individual awareness training is available for military family members through the military member’s unit or installation. The training includes basic knowledge of the terrorist threat pertaining to air and ground travel; security at government facilities, hotels, and home; vehicle bomb threats; and hostage survival tips.
- Supporting information, products and tools are available on the Army’s Antiterrorism Enterprise Portal (<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/605757>). Unit Antiterrorism Officers have access to and can share these resources with parents.
- CJCS Guide 5260, Antiterrorism Personal Protection Guide: A Self Help Guide to Antiterrorism, 14 October 2005. This guide offers useful information about terrorist threat awareness and personal protection measures.
- PC 5260, Antiterrorism Individual Protective Measures (wallet card), October 2001. This card is a great reference tool to remind family members of basic security measures.